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Weather tightness will lead to next equipment installation phases

## Roofing beams mark 'exciting' aquatic centre milestone

The first roof beam was lifted on to the Caroline Bay Aquatic Centre on Maori Park in Timaru yesterday (**April 6**) in what construction company head Roger Forde describes as a satisfying and exciting milestone in the project. He says the roofing of the aquatic centre will bring a timely barrier against the approaching winter cold and rains.

Mr Forde, managing-director of aquatic centre build contractors Ranger Construction, says the lifting and placement in the next three weeks of roof beams that will span almost half the length of a rugby paddock means the project is tracking on schedule.

"The commencement of the primary steel members for the roof structure is a milestone in the development of the aquatic centre and indicates that we are one third of the way through the project time frame," Mr Forde said.

"It has been a focus since the commencement of the project, so there is an enormous amount of satisfaction as the 'topping off' phase begins."

"We are not far away from the expected inclement winter weather so the timing is critical to move to building close-in as the days get shorter," Mr Forde said.

The roof beams, fabricated by John Jones Steel at Washdyke, span a total of 47 metres supported by a geometric column 32 metres along their length at the high point where the roof's pitch changes. The beams are 610mm deep and support 250mm x 150mm steel roof purlins to which specially imported steel skinned foam panels will clad and insulate the aquatic centre roof.

The first delivery of roof panels from Kingspan, Australia, is scheduled to arrive by ship in less than a week, he said.

"Work is progressing well off site with the manufacture of aluminium windows starting in Christchurch and the toughened tinted glass required for the project being ordered from Europe along with the Italian ceramic tiles for the swimming pools and change areas," Mr Forde said.

"The wood pellet boilers are being tested in Rolleston at present along with the manufacture of the electronic control panels and the augers that feed the pellets into the boiler furnace. The installation of the boilers is due by the end of April.

“Several hundred thousand dollars in plumbing, electrical and mechanical equipment for the project is already in stores in both Timaru and Christchurch ready for installation after the roof goes on and the project gears up for services trades to start their important work,” he said.

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